

COMBINED BALL MARKER AND DIVOT REPAIRING TOOL

RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 415,033 filed October 1, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 1. Field of the Invention. This invention relates to the field of accessories for golfing and more particularly to the field of multiple use tools having ball markers and divot repairing tools.

15 2. Discussion of the Background. Numerous golfing accessories are available that have structure to serve as ball markers and divot repairing tools. However, all known ones have a main body from which the fork or other working portion of the divot repairing tool pivots or slides outwardly and to which the ball marker is removably attached (e.g., magnetically). Applicant is not aware of any ball
20 marker that has a body from which a fork or other working portion of a divot repair tool pivots or slides outwardly wherein the two functions can be performed by the same device.

25 With this in mind, the present invention was developed. In it, a combination is provided of a ball marker and divot repairing tool in a single, unitary device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention involves a combination of a ball
marker and divot repairing tool in a single, unitary
device. The combination includes a ball marker with
a body having a substantially circular perimeter in
the tradition of a ball marker and a divot repairing
10 tool that has a prod (e.g., fork). The prod is
mounted for movement relative to the body of the
ball marker between a retracted position within the
circular perimeter of the body and a protruding
15 position extending outwardly of the perimeter of the
body.

In one embodiment, the fork of the divot
repairing tool is mounted to slide between the
20 retracted and protruding positions. In a second
embodiment, it is mounted to pivot between the
retracted and protruding positions. The combination
of each embodiment is then usable both as a ball
marker (with the prod in the retracted position) and
as a divot repairing tool (with the prod in its
25 protruding position). Because the ball marker and
divot repairing tool are in a single, unitary
device, both functions can then be performed by the
same device without the need for the golfer to carry
two, separate pieces.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention in which the body of the ball marker is substantially circular and the forked prod of the divot repairing tool is shown in its retracted position.

Figure 2 is a perspective view similar to Figure 1 but showing the forked prod of the divot repairing tool in its protruding position.

Figure 3 is an exploded view of the embodiment of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a view taken along line 4-4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the invention in which the forked prod of the divot repairing tool is mounted to pivot relative to the body of the ball marker and is shown in its retracted position.

Figure 6 shows the embodiment of Figure 5 with the forked prod in its protruding position.

Figure 7 is a view taken along line 7-7 of Figure 5 illustrating the locking mechanism of this embodiment to secure the forked prod in its retracted position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in the embodiment of Figure 1-4, the combination of present invention includes a ball marker with a body 1 having upper and lower, circular side pieces 3 as best seen in Figure 3 spaced from one another to receive the forked prod 2 of the divot repairing tool therebetween. As illustrated, the forked prod 2 is mounted for sliding movement relative to the body 1 of the ball marker between a retracted position (Figure 1) and a protruding position (Figure 2). In the retracted position of Figure 1, the forked prod 2 of the divot repairing tool is within the perimeter P of the body 1 of the ball marker and the combination can be used as a ball marker. In the protruding position of Figure 2 in which the forked prod 2 extends outwardly of the perimeter P of the body 1 of the ball marker, the combination can be used as a divot repairing tool.

To slidably move the forked prod 2 longitudinally along the axis 5 between the retracted and protruding positions of Figures 1 and 2, an upstanding member 4 (see also Figure 3) on the forked prod 2 is provided. The member 4 as shown is restrained within the elongated slot 7 (see Figures 1 and 2) in the upper side piece 3 of the body 1 of the ball marker. In this manner, the manual throw of the forked prod 2 is limited between the positions of Figures 1 and 2. With the combination of the present invention, the ball marker and divot repairing functions can then be performed all by the same, unitary device without the golfer having to carry and keep track of separate pieces.

For integrity and to help maintain the alignment of the forked prod 2 as it is moved along

the axis 5, the lower side piece 3 (see Figure 3) preferably has an upstanding member 9 receivable in the elongated slot 6 of the forked prod 2. Additionally, the embodiment of Figures 1-4 includes a locking mechanism to selectively secure the forked prod 2 in its retracted and protruding positions. The locking mechanism includes a spring-biased member 8 (see Figures 1 and 2) with a detent 10 selectively receivable in the notches 12 on the side of the forked prod 2 (see also Figure 3). The member 8 as shown is mounted adjacent one of the spacer members 14. This spacer member 14 as illustrated has an indent 16 to permit the detent 10 to move between positions engaging and disengaging the notches 12 as the forked prod 2 is slid thereby.

The body 1 of the ball marker in the embodiment of Figures 1-4 preferably has substantially circular, flat side pieces 3 suitable for graphics or advertising. The circular side pieces 3 in this regard could be about half an inch to an inch and a half in diameter (and more preferably about an inch) in keeping with the traditional size and shape of most ball markers. Similarly, the prod 2 as illustrated is forked with at least two tines in the tradition of a divot repairing tool but could be a single tine if desired.

In the embodiment of Figures 5-7, the body 1' of the ball marker has a single, substantially circular and flat side piece 3' and the forked prod 2' is mounted for pivotal movement about the axis 5' relative thereto. In the retracted position of Figure 5, the forked prod 2' is again within the perimeter P of the body 1' of the ball marker. Similarly, in the protruding position of Figure 6, the forked prod 2' extends outwardly of the perimeter of the body 1'. Additionally, in this embodiment, a locking mechanism is provided to aid

in securing the forked prod 2' in the retracted position of Figure 5. In doing so, a protuberance 11 is provided that extends outwardly of the side piece 3' of the body 1' (see Figure 7). The
5 protuberance 11 as best seen in Figure 6 is located at the free end of a cantilevered arm 13 which is partially cut from or otherwise supported on the side piece 3'. In use, the protuberance 11 on the
10 end of the resilient arm 13 will be abutted and depressed downwardly out of the way as the outer tines 18 and base 20 of the forked prod 2' are pivoted over the side piece 3'. Consequently and in
15 going between the positions of Figures 6 and 5, the depressed protuberance 11 (shown in dotted lines in Figure 7) will spring back up under the force of the resilient arm 13 (shown in solid lines in Figure 7)
20 to be received between the middle tines 18 (see also Figure 5). The protuberance 11 will thereby aid in securing the forked prod 2' in the retracted position of Figure 5.

While several embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described in detail, it to be understood that various changes and
25 modifications could be made without departing from the scope of the invention.